

Capsule Summary  
SM-589  
Leonardtown Bowling Alley  
Leonardtown  
Private

c. late-1920's

In the fall of 1927, J. Gregory Nuthall hired Charles A. Heard to survey a 1/2 acre tract on the south side of Fenwick Street in Leonardtown, Maryland. Soon after the survey, Nuthall subdivided the property into three separate parcels and then subsequently sold them. Perhaps by 1928, the Leonardtown Bowling Alley was open for business. The narrow, one story, frame building, however, only accommodated four duck pin lanes. Along with Duke's Fountain-Bar-Restaurant (SM-532), St. Mary's Theater (SM-566), and the New Theater (SM-594), the Bowling Alley symbolized Leonardtown's emergence as the social and recreational hub of St. Mary's County.

By 1951, however, the alley was closed, the lanes taken out, and the building converted into a rooming house. The rooming house, itself, was later converted into the paint shop for the nearby Fenwick Motor Company. The building is currently used by Bell Motors for storage and is in good repair.

SM-589, Leonardtown Bowling Alley  
St. Mary's County  
Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization:	Western Shore
Chronological/Developmental Period:	Break with the Past, 1930-present
Historic Period Theme:	Commerce Social

Resource Type

Category:	Building
Historic Environment:	Town
Historic Function and Use:	Bowling Alley
Known Design Source:	None

**Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

**MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES**

Survey No. SM-589

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Leonardtown Bowling Alley

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number West Fenwick Street, South side of road ☐ not for publication

city, town Leonardtown ☐ vicinity of congressional district 3

state Maryland county St. Mary's TM 133, P 242

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Bell Motor Company, Incorporated

street & number PO Box 656 telephone no.: 301-475-2355

city, town Leonardtown state and zip code Maryland, 20650

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. St. Mary's County Courthouse liber EWA 822

street & number folio 103

city, town Leonardtown state Maryland

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

Survey No. SM-589

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing Resource Count: 1

The Leonardtown Bowling Alley is located on the south side of Fenwick Street just west of the intersection of Washington and Fenwick Streets near the commercial heart of Leonardtown, Maryland. The building is oriented on a north-south axis and situated on a flat, 6,161 square foot town lot. The Alley building is bounded on the east by the Fenwick Motors Garage (SM-590), to the west by the Fenwick Street Fire House (SM-550), to the north by Fenwick Street, and to the south by a parking area and driveway.

The one story, frame, three bay, gable front building is covered with clapboard fastened to the circular sawn frame with wire and machine cut nails. The cornice is enclosed with beaded matchstick and the gable roof is covered with standing seam metal. The roof is pierced by a brick chimney flue that extends well beyond the roof line.

The primary or north elevation is pierced by a centrally located door flanked on both sides by a set of paired windows. Immediately above the central entrance is a window that lit the attic space. All of these bays have been boarded over. A large glass sign resting on a metal pole and frame reads "Regal Muffler Center, Coast to Coast."

The west elevation of the building is pierced by three, six-over-six, double-hung sash windows and three boarded over windows, while the east elevation is pierced by a door and three windows that have been boarded over. The south elevation and the interior were not visible at the time of the visit.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. SM-589

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) recreation

### Specific dates

### Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

In the fall of 1927, J. Gregory Nuthall hired Charles A. Heard to survey a 1/2 acre tract on the south side of Fenwick Street in Leonardtown, Maryland. Soon after the survey, Nuthall subdivided the property into three separate parcels and then subsequently sold them. Perhaps by 1928, the Leonardtown Bowling Alley was open for business. The narrow, one story, frame building, however, only accomodated four duck pin lanes. Along with Duke's Fountain-Bar-Restaurant (SM-532), St. Mary's Theater (SM-566), and the New Theater (SM-594), the Bowling Alley symbolized Leonardtown's emergence as the social and recreational hub of St. Mary's County.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. SM-589

Tommy Bell, interview, February, 1997.

Ed Stokel, interview, March, 1997.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 6,161 sq ftQuadrangle name Leonardtown, MdQuadrangle scale 1:24 000UTM References do NOT complete UTM referencesA 

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Zone Easting NorthingB 

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Zone Easting NorthingC 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Same as per deed description.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kirk E. Ranzetta, Historic Sites Surveyororganization St. Mary's County Planning and Zoningdate April, 1997street & number 22740 Washington Streettelephone 301-475-4662city or town Leonardtownstate Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
514-7630

## SM-589, Leonardtown Bowling Alley

St. Mary's County

### 8.1 Significance

#### Chain-of-Title

(All deeds are located at the Land Records Office, St. Mary's County Courthouse, Leonardtown, Maryland unless otherwise noted.)

Reference: Liber EWA 822, Folio 103

Grantee: Bell Motor Company

Grantor: Norbert Fenwick et al

Date: September 1, 1993

Notes: This deed lists five parcels that are sold to the Bell Motor Company. Parcel #4 and #5 are the two properties that pertinent to the deed search. Norbert Fenwick and his brothers and sisters represent the heirs to Cuthbert Ignatius Fenwick estate.

Reference: Liber DBK 238, Folio 203

Grantee: Violet M. Fenwick, William G. Fenwick, Jr., Joseph Frank Fenwick, Mary Lillian Himmelhaber, Ann R. F. Allum Poon

Grantor: Joseph Francis Fenwick and William G. Fenwick, Jr. personal representatives of William G. Fenwick

Date: July 5, 1975

Notes: Parcel #4 is listed as containing 6236 3/4 sq. ft. and parcel #5 is listed as containing 6,161 sq. ft. These two parcels are combined under the same ownership beginning with this deed.

#### Parcel #4

Reference: Liber CBG 35, Folio 51

Grantee: William G. and Cuthbert I. Fenwick

Grantor: J. Leroy and Gladys J. McNey

Date: January 11, 1952

Notes: The County Trust Company releases the lien placed on the property when Leroy and Gladys McNey sell the lot called the "Bowling Alley Lot" to the Fenwicks.

Reference: Liber CBG 14, Folio 119

Grantee: J. Leroy and Gladys J. McNey

Grantor: Maurice T. and Anita C. Thrift

Date: January 21, 1943

Reference: Liber CBG 13, Folio 355

Grantee: Maurice T. and Anita C. Thrift

Grantor: Joseph D. Weiner

Date: April 20, 1942

Reference: Liber CBG 13, Folio 287

Grantee: Joseph D. Weiner

Grantor: J. Maguire Mattingly

Date: February 27, 1942

Notes: This deed provides the first reference to the lot as the site of the Leonardtown Bowling Alley.

SM-589, Leonardtown Bowling Alley  
St. Mary's County  
8.2 Significance

Reference: Liber JMM 8, Folio 457  
Grantee: J. Maguire Mattingly  
Grantor: Andrew J. Mattingly  
Date: February 15, 1934

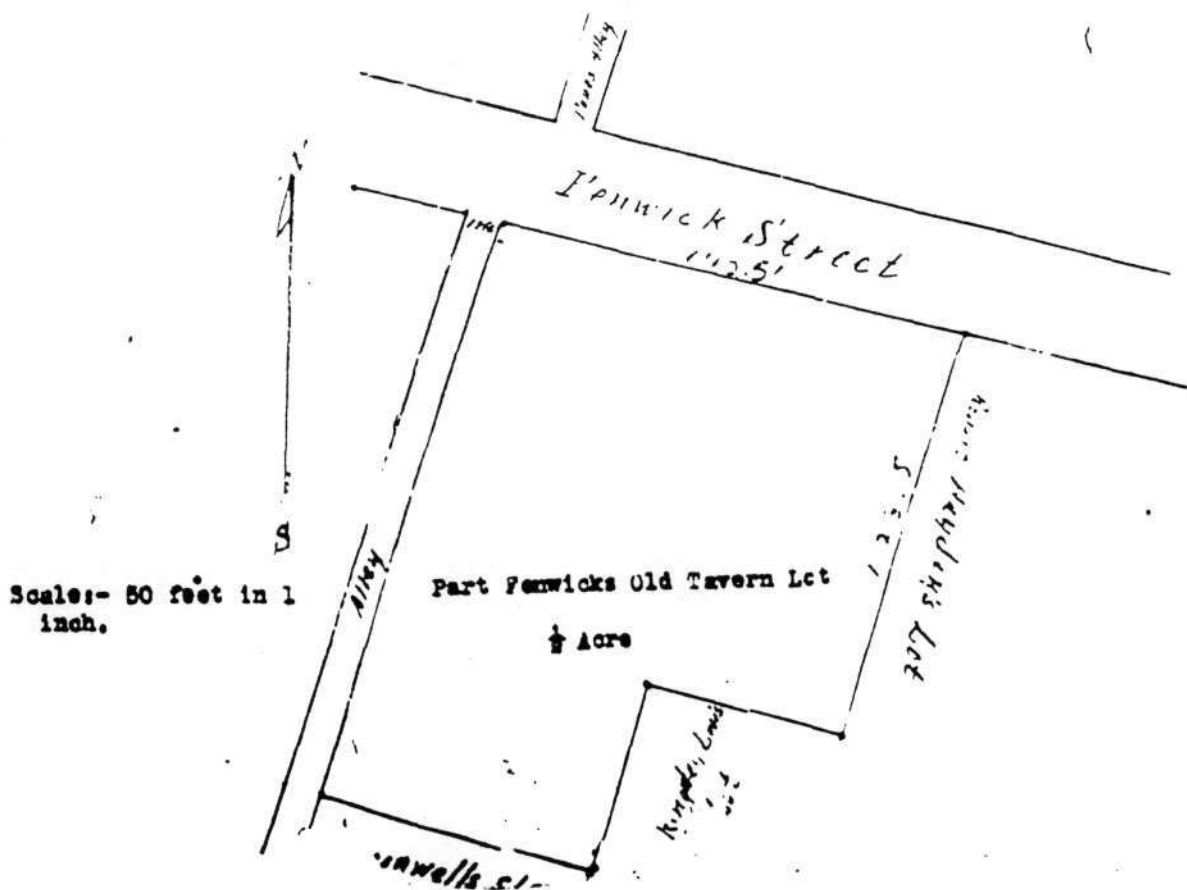
Reference: Liber JMM 7, Folio 283  
Grantee: Andrew J. and J. Maguire Mattingly  
Grantor: J.H.T. Briscoe, trustee  
Date: April 14, 1932  
Notes: Frank P. Scrivener, Jr. and J. Austin Hamilton default on a mortgage (Liber JMM 3, Folio 22) and as a result the property is sold at auction to the Mattinglys for \$4200.

Reference: Liber JMM 6, Folio 143  
Grantee: Frank P. Scrivener, Jr. and J. Austin Hamilton  
Grantor: J. Gregory Nuthall  
Date: June, 1928

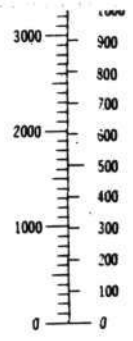
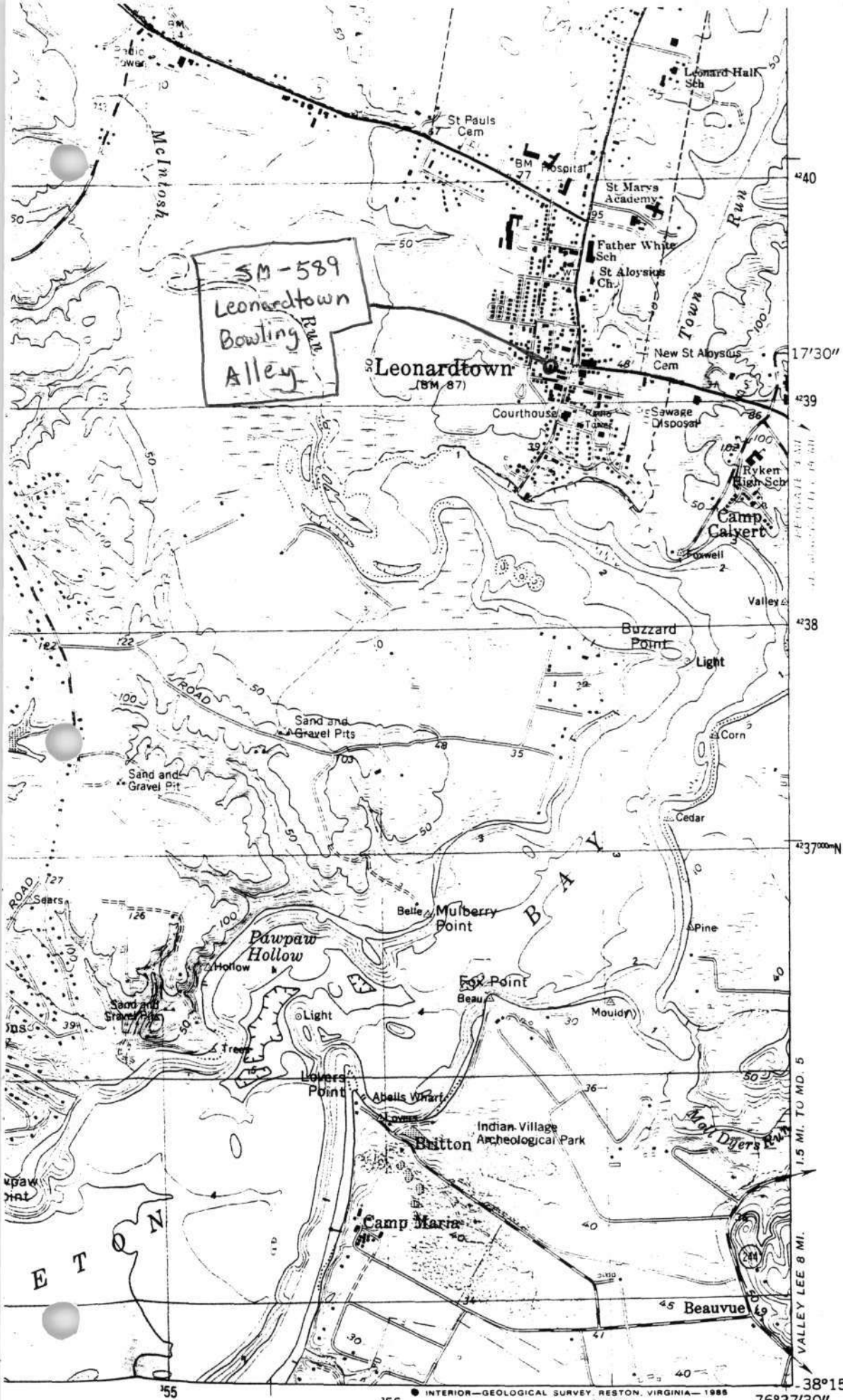
Reference: Liber JMM 5, Folio 375  
Grantee: J. Gregory Nuthall  
Grantor: H. Webster and Elsie M. Foxwell  
Date: August 27, 1927  
Notes: In this deed, the Foxwell's subdivide a 1/2 acre tract from the "Union Hotel Property." Both Parcel #4 and #5 come from this 1/2 acre tract. Charles A. Heard is listed as a surveyor of the property as a plat was entered into the deed. (Plat record Liber JMM 5, Folio 376)



SM-589, Leonardtown Bowling Alley  
St. Mary's County  
8.3 Significance

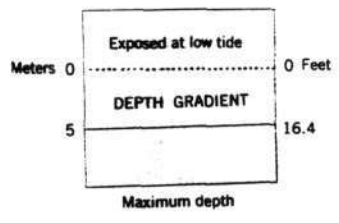


Plat of "Part Fenwicks Old Tavern Lot" drawn by Charles A. Heard on August 12, 1927. From this  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre, J. Gregory Nuthall subdivided the parcel into three separate tracts that would later be the home of the Fenwick Motors Garage (SM-590), Leonardtown Bowling Alley (SM-589), and McNey's Garage (not surveyed-see Leonardtown Survey District (SM-592) for photographs of the garage building. Plat Record Liber JMM 5, Folio 376.



Feet	Meters
1	3048
2	5096
3	9144
4	1.2192
5	1.5240
6	1.8288
7	2.1336
8	2.4384
9	2.7432
10	3.0480

To convert feet to meters multiply by .3048  
 To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808



**LEONARDTOWN, MD.**  
 SW/4 LEONARDTOWN 15' QUADRANGLE  
 38076-C6-TB-024

1963  
 BATHYMETRY ADDED 1982  
 PHOTOREVISED 1984  
 DMA 5660 I SW SERIES V833

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

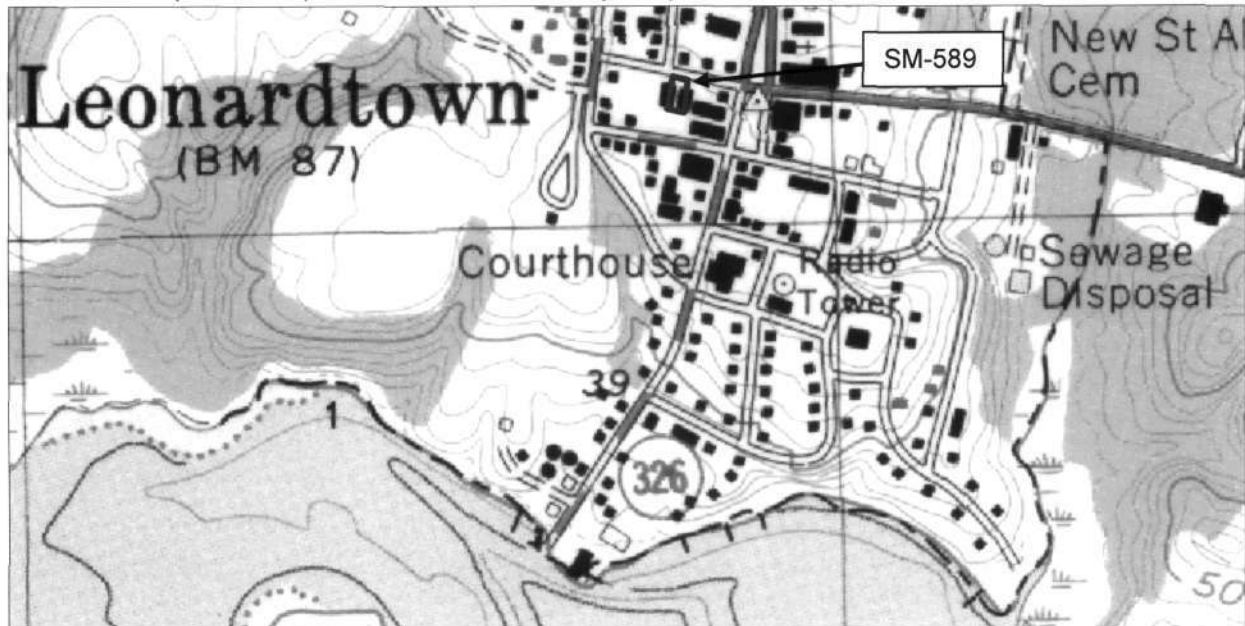
(PIN-Y PO.  
 5660 II

DEMOLISHED

Leonardtown Bowling Alley, site

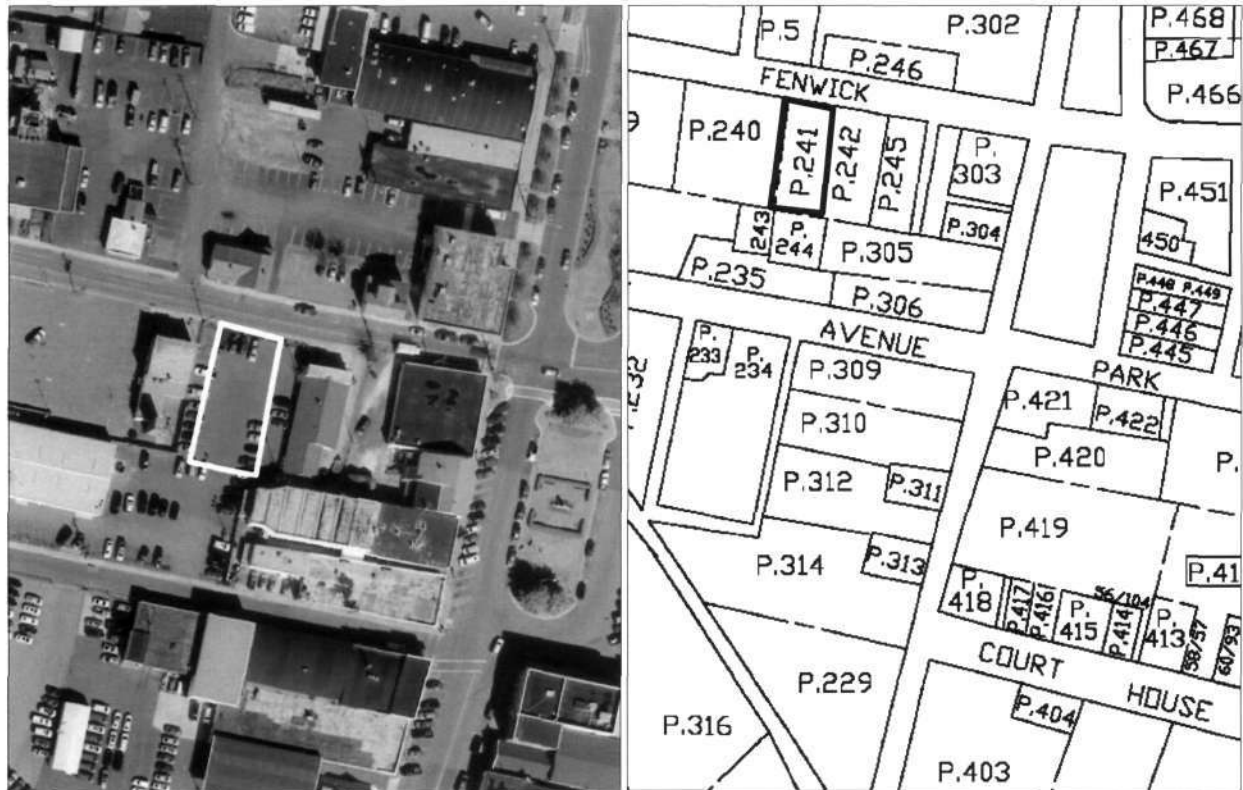
41615 Fenwick Street, Leonardtown

Leonardtown quad 1963 (Photorevised 1984, Bathymetry added 1982)



National Web Map Service 6" Orthophoto Map,  
c. 2007-08

Tax Map 133, P. 241





SM-589

Leonardtown Bowling Alley

St. Mary's County

Kirk Ranzetta

May 1997

Md SHPO

N+E elevations

1 of 1